



**Pima County/Tucson Women's Commission
Full Commission Meeting
12/19/07
Adopted Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Wendy Cevallos, Barbara Clarihew, Barbara Epperson, Gypsy Lyle, Michael Mandel, Dinah McGlory, Samantha Paz, Renee Palting

Commissioners Absent: Adela Allen, Linda Azuelo, Cathleen Becskehazy, Isabella Soto

Staff Present: Monica Mueller

Public Present: Lucinda Hughes-Juan, Mary Lee Wright

Meeting called to order 5:30 p.m.

Agenda Review: Minor changes to the sequence of agenda items.

Call to Public

No items introduced.

Approval/Amendment of Last Minutes (11/21/07):

Correction, under "Adjournment": change "...Gypsy seconded" to "...Michael seconded."

Motion by Barbara C. to approve the 11/21/07 Full Commission Minutes as revised; Wendy seconded. Passed 7 to 0.

Announcements

Announcements were received from Monica and Barbara E., highlighting items in handouts they distributed. In addition:

- (from Renee): January 19, 2pm, film "The Business of Being Born", followed by panel discussion on birth practices. At UMC Duvall Auditorium.
- (from Lucinda): January 22: 13th Indian Nations & Tribes Legislative Day, at the AZ State Capitol.
- (from Michael): February 14: Stop Violence Against Women Day at Phoenix legislature.

Treasurer Report

Report received. Gypsy moved to accept the report as presented; Barbara E. seconded. Passed 8 to 0.

Executive Director Report

Report received and questions addressed. Note correction p.3: Richard Elias represents District 5. No further action taken. Michael moved to approve the report as presented; Dinah seconded. Passed 8 to 0.

Committee Reports

Development

- Note April 15, tentative date for Take Back the Night.
- Commissioners provided suggestions for women to invite to participate as models for the Toque de Pasión International Women's Day Fiesta March 8th (proceeds to benefit the Commission).
- The annual appeal letter "dropped" today. Newsletter will be online from now on and is referenced in the letter and on an enclosed buck slip. A limited number of newsletters will be printed for outreach purposes.

Women's Issues

Highlights of the last committee mtg reviewed:

- Prof. Mark Homan presented guidelines for conducting an assessment of women's issues in the city and county. He emphasized an approach from a strengths perspective, and the importance of identifying not just the issue, but the cause of the problem. There is a possibility to work with Prof. Homan's class in spring 2008.
- Committee provided an opportunity to hear from three groups re employment issues at the Tucson Fire Dept: TFD employee Michele Maliniak TFD Chief Newburn, and members of the GLBT Commission. Purpose was to hear what people had to say – not to mediate or make decisions. Ms. Maliniak gave a brief review of her career with the Tucson Fire Department and cited examples of gender discrimination against her and other females on the force. Chief Newburn described the Fire Department's continuing efforts to educate all present and future department members with training dealing with gender discrimination. He described a human relations committee, in the development stages, that would help people to integrate into the department. Representatives of the GLBT Commission described the history of trying to get women on the Fire Department and described incidents of discrimination against female firefighters.

Committee chair Lyle noted that while there were different levels of satisfaction among the different groups present, the meeting was amicable. The committee saw this forum as a positive opportunity to keep up the dialogue about the issues discussed.

Youth Issues

The committee is planning the Speak Out! conference to take place in April; school venue TBD. The conference will focus on three themes: health education, leadership and opportunities (re politics and education), and protecting yourself (e.g. physical defense classes).

Education & Outreach

The committee is working on Web site redesign. Next mtg Jan 23.

Committee reports received and discussed. No further action taken.

Reception planning/discussion

January 10th reception at a commissioner's home is postponed due to illness. Original purpose of the event was relationship-building and introduction of the new ED. Given the need to reschedule to a later date, the committee will re-examine the goals and format of the event. New date TBD. Possibility of tying this in with Women's History Month and/or doing house parties with poetry readings.

Update on New Commissioners and Recruitment of Same

- Ward 3 Council Member Karin Uhlich appointed Moniqua Lane, an attorney with Sky Island Alliance.
- County Supervisor Richard Elias (District 5) appointed Michele Roland-Schwarz.

- Lucinda Hughes-Juan has confirmed her interest in becoming a commissioner.

Domestic Partner Support

A letter addressed to Mayor and Council in support of a proposal regarding domestic partner coverage was reviewed. Minor edits made. Michael moved to approve the letter as revised; Renee seconded. Passed 8 to 0. The letter will be sent to M & C under signature of Barbara Clarihew and Monica Mueller.

Bylaws Task Force

The commission will table this discussion to benefit from the input of an incoming commissioner who is an attorney. Purpose of bylaws review is to update them and ensure that they are functional and in line with current practice.

March Women's History Month planning

Ad hoc chair absent today; discussion tabled.

Adjournment: Michael motioned and Dinah seconded. Passed 8 to 0. Meeting adjourned 6:55pm.

Submitted by Monica Mueller